

Current Foreign Policy Not an Issue, Eisenhower Says

Associated Press

Former President Eisenhower ruled out current foreign policy yesterday as a proper campaign issue. He said those who attack President Kennedy's handling of international crises weaken and divide the Nation.

At the same time the former President stoutly defended the Republican Party's right to discuss policy matters "that are history" and "the general long-range attitude of our Nation toward its whole position in the . . . world."

Gen. Eisenhower expressed his views in a taped television interview (ABC-WMAL, "Politics '62").

Boston Talk Recalled

His statements seemed to conflict with GOP pronouncements proclaiming Cuba the top issue of the Nov. 6 Congressional elections, and an Oct. 15 speech he delivered in Boston.

In that speech, Gen. Eisenhower, in an obvious reference to erection of the Berlin wall and the Communist buildup in Cuba, defended his Administration, saying:

"In those eight years, we lost no inch of ground to tyranny. We witnessed no abdication of responsibility. We accepted no compromise of pledged word or withdrawal from principle. No walls were built. No threatening foreign bases were established . . ."

Gen. Eisenhower said it was the Democrats who first brought up foreign policy, accusing his Republican Administration of drifting for eight years, and that he had responded to this in his Boston remarks.

"I do not believe we should fall to discuss things that are history," he said, ". . . a loyal opposition has got a perfect right to discuss it without rancor . . ."

Issues Dismissed

He also included the long-term trend of policy as open political discussion, but not the President's immediate handling of foreign affairs as a legitimate topic.

He said for Cuba and foreign policy being a campaign issue, Gen. Eisenhower said, "I think that probably we have heard the last of it. At least I hope so."

He refused to comment, saying it is "none of my business," when asked his position on calls by some Democrats and Republicans for an immediate invasion of Cuba. But he hit into the Kennedy Administration on domestic politics and again urged the election of more Republicans.

He said the climate that is being established in the United States by the Federal Government is unfavorable to an expanding economy." Mr. Eisenhower said.

Domestic Differences

More profits for business are necessary, he said and added: "We are spending too much, and there is a stagnation developing that I think is going to be very, very serious."

The former President summed up his differences with President Kennedy on domestic policy with a statement that "I am against almost everything he is for . . ."

"I am for a broad program of increasing opportunity, increasing jobs through, as I say, making it possible to have profits . . . I do not want to see it done by some kind of a political legerdemain in Washington . . . so I am very much against a good many of his programs I think they go too far . . ."